

209546-81684 (701449US DIV)

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Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-52 (Canceled).

53. (Currently Amended) A layered composite structure for a panel structure mountable in a vehicle to form a part of the interior thereof, said panel structure having an exterior surface exposed to the vehicle interior and an interior surface disposed in cooperating and concealing relation with a secondary restraint system, said layered composite structure comprising an outer layer with an opaque visual appearance defining the exterior surface of said panel structure and an inner layer adhered to an inner surface of said outer layer, characterized in that the inner layer of the layered composite structure further comprises:

an adhesively bonded pre-formed seam defining structure, said seam defining structure being made of a material having a lower tensile strength than said inner layer, said seam defining structure defining a frangible line corresponding to an invisible tear seam which fractures in response to operation of the secondary restraint system.

54. (Previously Presented) A layered composite structure as defined in claim 53, wherein the seam defining structure comprises one of a thermoplastic material, elongated strips, a sheet structure, and twine.

55. (Previously Presented) A layered composite structure as defined in claim 54, wherein the sheet structure comprises an open mesh fabric.

56. (Previously Presented) A layered composite structure as defined in claim 55, wherein the open mesh fabric comprises a fiber glass mat.

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57. (Previously Presented) A layered composite structure as defined in claim 54, wherein said sheet structure is severed along said frangible line.

58. (Previously Presented) A layered composite structure as defined in claim 57, wherein the severed sheet structure comprises peripheral walls surrounding the invisible tear seam and protruding from the inner layer away from the outer layer.

59. (Currently Amended) A layered composite structure as defined in claim 54, wherein

said outer layer comprises ~~a water-dispersed composition comprising~~ at least one light-stable thermoplastic polyurethane, ~~at least one coloring agent, and at least one heat-activated~~ a crosslinker; and

the inner layer is ~~a composition which crosslinks the inner layer~~ crosslinked about the seam defining structure with the polyurethane of the outer layer via residual unreacted functional groups of the crosslinker to form interfacial chemical bonding between the inner surface of the outer layer and an adjacent surface of the inner layer.

60. (Previously Presented) A layered composite structure as defined in claim 59, wherein the outer layer has a thickness in a range of from about 0.0025 cm to about 0.0038 cm.

61. (Previously Presented) A layered composite structure as defined in claim 60, wherein the inner layer has a thickness in a range of from about 0.10 cm to about 0.15 cm.

62. (Previously Presented) A layered composite structure as defined in claim 59, wherein the layered composite structure has a configuration of an exterior surface of a door panel.

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63. (Previously Presented) A layered composite structure as defined in claim 59, wherein the layered composite structure has a configuration of an exterior surface of an instrument panel.

64. (Previously Presented) A layered composite structure as defined in claim 59, wherein the composition from which the inner layer is formed comprises an aromatic polyisocyanate, and wherein the crosslinker is a blocked, heat-activated diisocyanate.

65. (Previously Presented) A layered composite structure as defined in claim 53, wherein the layered composite structure is united with a reinforcing substrate so that the reinforcing substrate reinforces the layered composite structure in such a way that the layered composite structure fractures generally along the tear seam in response to the operation of the secondary restraint system.

66. (Previously Presented) A layered composite structure as defined in claim 65, wherein a rapid reacting mixture which forms a cellular polyurethane foam unites the layered composite structure and the reinforcing substrate.

67. (Currently Amended) A layered composite structure for a panel structure of a motor vehicle comprising:

an outer layer having an inner surface and an outer surface, the outer surface defining an exposed exterior surface of the panel structure, the outer layer being substantially non-cellular;

an inner layer disposed adjacent to the inner surface of the outer layer, the inner layer being substantially non-cellular; and

a seam defining structure disposed in the inner layer or between the outer layer and the inner layer, the seam defining structure being made of a material having a lower tensile strength than the inner layer, the seam defining structure defining a tear seam for fracturing in response to operation of a secondary restraint system, the seam defining structure not being visible from the exposed exterior surface.